

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) An image capture apparatus ~~which records image data of captured image on a recording medium comprising:~~

an image capture unit adapted to capture an image;

a recording unit adapted to record image data for the captured image on a recording medium;

a reproducing unit adapted to reproduce the image data ~~captured~~ from the recording medium;

an embedding unit adapted to embed specific information into the image data using a digital watermarking technique;

an outputting unit adapted to output the image data including the specific information or the image data not including the specific information to the outside; and

a selecting unit adapted to select a first process or a second process in accordance with user's instruction,

wherein, when the first process is selected, the embedding unit embeds the specific information into the image data and the outputting unit outputs the image data including the specific information to the outside, and

wherein, when the second process is selected, the embedding unit does not embed the specific information into the image data and ~~[[an]]~~ the outputting unit outputs the image data not including the specific information to the outside.

2. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the embedding unit is adapted to embed the specific information into the decompressed image data.

C. 3. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reproducing unit is adapted to reproduce the specific information from the recording medium.

4. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reproducing unit adapted to reproduce the specific information from another recording medium.

5. (Currently Amended) A method for an image capture apparatus ~~which records image data of captured image on a recording medium, the method~~ comprising the steps of:

capturing an image;

recording image data of the captured image on a recording medium;

reproducing the image data captured from the recording medium;

embedding specific information into the image data using a digital watermarking technique;

outputting the image data including the specific information or the image data not including the specific information to the outside; and

selecting a first process or a second process in accordance with user's instruction,

wherein, when the first process is selected, the embedding step embeds the specific information into the image data and the outputting step outputs the image data including the specific information to the outside, and

C1 wherein, when the second process is selected, the embedding step does not embed the specific information into the image data and ~~[[an]]~~ the outputting step outputs the image data not including the specific information to the outside.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the embedding step is a step of embedding the specific information into the decompressed image data.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising a step of reproducing the specific information from the recording medium.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, further comprising a step of reproducing the specific information from another recording medium.

9. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing a program for an image capture apparatus ~~which records image data of captured image on a recording medium,~~ the program performing the steps of:

capturing an image;

recording image data of the captured image on a recording medium;

reproducing the image data captured from the recording medium;

embedding specific information into the image data using a digital watermarking technique; and

selecting a first process or a second process in accordance with user's instruction,

C, wherein, when the first process is selected, the embedding step embeds the specific information into the image data and the outputting step outputs the image data including the specific information to the outside, and

wherein, when the second process is selected, the embedding step does not embed the specific information into the image data and ~~[[an]]~~ the outputting step outputs the image data not including the specific information to the outside.

10. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the embedding step is a step of embedding the specific information into the decompressed image data.

11. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the program further comprises a step of reproducing the specific information from the recording medium.

12. (Previously Presented) A storage medium according to claim 9, wherein the program further comprises a step of reproducing the specific information from another recording medium.

13. (New) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus generates the specific information when the image is captured.

14. (New) A method according to claim 5, further comprising a step of generating the specific information when the image is captured.

15. (New) A storage medium according to claim 9, the program further comprises a step of generating the specific information when the image is captured.
